

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 03949 101921Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 OPIC-03

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DEPT PASS TREASURY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IT

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MORO AND ECONOMIC ADVISER ANDREATTA
PRESS ITALY'S CASE ON LEATHER FOOTWEAR

REF: ROME 3715

1. DURING MARCH 9 MEETING WITH SECRETARY SIMON, PRIME MINISTER MORO RAISED ISSUE OF LEATHER FOOTWEAR IN CONTEXT OF WHAT HE TERMED POSSIBILITY OF U.S. PROTECTIONISM WHICH WOULD AFFECT SOME ITEMS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITALY. MORO SAID THAT WHILE HE REALIZED THAT THERE WERE MANY DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW ON SUBJECT, HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT U.S. FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY WAS SUFFERING FROM ITALIAN COMPETITION, AND, ACCORDINGLY, HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD CONSIDER ISSUE IN SPIRIT OF LIBERAL TRADE POLICY. IN RESPONSE SECRETARY SIMON EXPLAINED IN GENERAL TERMS REQUIREMENTS OF LEGISLATION GOVERNING IMPORT POLICY AND NOTED THAT MOST CASES

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PAGE 02 ROME 03949 101921Z

CONSIDERED HAD BEEN SATISFACTORILY SETTLED.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT SEIDMAN MARCH 10, MORO'S ECONOMIC ADVISOR ANDREATTA PURSUED SIMILAR LINE, ALTHOUGH IN GREATER DETAIL. WHILE ANDREATTA INDICATED ITALIAN INTEREST IN PENDING SPECIALTY STEEL CASE, HE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON ITC RECOMMENDATIONS ON ESCAPE CLAUSE ACTION ON FOOTWEAR WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ITALY. HE OPINED THAT IT WOULD BE TOO BAD IF U.S., WHICH NOW FACING ACCUSATIONS ON CIA AND LOCKHEED MATTERS, WOULD BECOME FURTHER CRITICIZED BECAUSE OF DIRECT USG ACTION, I.E., RESTRICTIONS ON FOOTWEAR. ANDREATTA NOTED THAT FOOTWEAR CONSTITUTES ONE-SEVENTH OF ITALIAN EXPORTS TO U.S. (A TRADE IN WHICH ITALY RUNS DEFICIT) AND THAT COTTAGE-TYPE INDUSTRY WHICH HAS DEVELOPED WIDELY IN RECENT YEARS AFFECTS LARGE NUMBER OF VOTERS -- AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN FORTHCOMING CRUCIAL NATIONAL ELECTION. MR. SEIDMAN THANKED ANDREATTA FOR HIS VIEWS AND PROMISED TO TAKE NOTE OF THEM. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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